

# The City of Sydney Access Policy

CITY  
OF  
SYDNEY



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# Introduction

The City of Sydney is the commercial, financial and tourist centre of Australia and is distinguished by its harbour setting, characteristic precincts and heritage buildings. Sydney is a central place, a special place and a place for people. This policy will contribute to maintaining and improving the amenity and accessibility of the City. Good accessibility ensures that everyone can experience the many aspects of the City in safety and comfort.

## **Statement of Policy**

The aim of the *Access Policy* is to adopt and implement strategies which will enable the City of Sydney to provide an environment which is accessible to all people including those with disabilities.

## **Definitions**

### **Access**

- > the provision of a barrier free environment for all persons including those with disabilities.

### **Disability**

- > the loss or reduction of functional ability (e.g. mobility, self care, communication, understanding) as a result of an impairment. This includes physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric, multiple, temporary and permanent disabilities.

# Objective I

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**REPEALED**

Refer to *City of Sydney Access Development Control Plan 2004*.

## Objective 2

2

Ensure access to all buildings and facilities owned or leased by Council.

2.1

### Strategies

- > Council shall comply with AS 1428.1 and consider AS 1428.2 in the development of new Council buildings and facilities.
- > Council shall endeavour to progressively modify its existing buildings and facilities with inadequate access in accordance with AS 1428.1. In no case shall alterations result in decreased access.
- > Council shall not buy or lease any building or facility which cannot potentially provide access in accordance with AS 1428.1.
- > Council shall provide one percent of the total car spaces for the vehicles of people with disabilities at Council owned parking stations and shall promote an on-street parking scheme where a need is identified.

## Objective 3

3

Ensure access throughout the pedestrian network in the City, including footpaths, through-site links, public arcades, overpasses and underpasses.

### Strategies

3.1

- > Council shall provide a continuous accessible path of travel throughout the City footpath network having regard to the provisions of AS 1428.1, AS 1428.2 and Council Policy.
- > Council shall provide kerb ramps from the footpath to the road at all intersections and through all traffic islands, except where circumstances warrant otherwise.
- > Council shall require that footpaths be at grade on all sites which include a vehicle crossing.
- > Council shall require that construction activity on, over or adjacent to the public way provide a pathway free of obstruction or projections and that it be complete with ramps, direction and warning signs, fencing and handrails all in accordance with AS 1428.1.



Kerb ramps at pedestrian crossing.

- > Council shall provide simple standardised signage and tactile signage at all signalled intersections to assist with street identification and such signage shall have regard to the provisions of As 1428.1, AS 1428.2 and Council Policy.
- > Council shall ensure that street furniture is designed and located having regard to the provisions of AS 1428.2.
- > Council shall ensure that all replacement ground surfaces throughout the pedestrian network under Council's control are slip resistant, traversable by wheelchairs and indicate changes of grade by the use of materials which provide a visual and tactile differentiation unless the circumstances warrant otherwise.
- > Council shall investigate other pedestrian access matters as required including new paving materials, wheelchair detector loops, speed bumps, removal of obstructions, etc., in order to improve the pedestrian network.
- > Council shall promote improved access to those pedestrian areas not under its control by consulting with the relevant parties and requesting their cooperation in complying with the *Access Policy*.

## Objective 4

4

Provide convenient access to all public open space including parks, reserves, malls, plazas and squares.

### Strategies

4.1

- > Council shall provide access to and within all proposed public open space having regard to the provisions of AS 1428.1, AS 1428.2 and Council Policy.
- > Council shall endeavour to improve the accessibility of all existing public open space which has inadequate access, addressing matters such as signage, ramps, paving, parking and toilet facilities and having regard to the provisions of AS 1428.1, AS 1428.2 and Council Policy.
- > Council shall promote improved access to open space not under its control by consulting with the relevant parties and requesting their cooperation in complying with the *Access Policy*.



Ramp access to Hyde Park South.



## Objective 5

5

Raise awareness and understanding of disability issues through research, information, consultation and education programmes involving the community, professionals, Council members and Council staff.

### Strategies

5.1

- > Council shall recognise the *City of Sydney Access Committee* as the main advisory body to Council on access issues.
- > Council shall maintain an *Access Map* which provides information on accessible building entrances and open space, ramps, toilets, telephones, parking, footpath grades, taxi stands, etc., in the Central Business District. The *Access Map* shall be one of a series of standard city maps maintained by the Council.
- > Council shall distribute the *Access Policy*, the *Access Checklist* and the *Access Map* in conjunction with other Council information, and relevant Council brochures shall refer to the *Access* documents.
- > Council shall provide staff training programmes which outline the requirements for access and raise awareness and understanding of the needs of people with disabilities.
- > Council shall investigate more general matters of access as required.
- > Council shall review the *Access Policy* every three years.